

## ➤ Food Resupply

### Food drops

Backcountry food drops can be arranged for long trips but they must meet certain guidelines:

You must be there in person to receive delivery. One option is to have an approved commercial pack station deliver to a location at a designated time. Prices may vary.

- Trash disposal resulting from food drops must be arranged with the pack station. Food wrappers and empty boxes cannot be left at drop sites.

- Food drops cannot be made to backcountry food storage boxes.

- Drops that do not meet these guidelines will be removed from the backcountry.

If you have questions concerning these procedures, please call the Parks' Wilderness Office: (559) 565-3766.

### Mailing food

Food may be mailed to the Cedar Grove and Mineral King ranger stations during their normal season of operation. There are no U.S. Post Offices in these areas. The packages are held for three weeks from the date received or three weeks after the expected pickup date, whichever is later. Use regular U.S. mail; do not use insured, special delivery, UPS, etc. because of the remoteness of these ranger stations.

*Please address the packages as follows:*

YOUR NAME, TRAIL HIKER pickup date:

c/o Cedar Grove Ranger Station

Box 926

Kings Canyon National Park, CA 93633

YOUR NAME, TRAIL HIKER pickup date:

c/o Mineral King Ranger Station

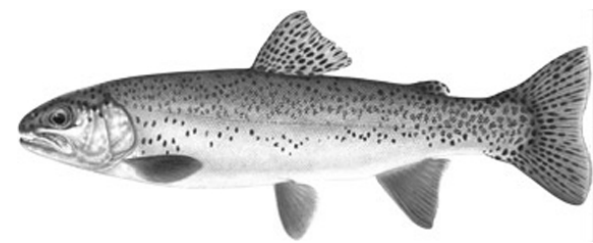
Star Route

Three Rivers, CA 93271

Cedar Grove Ranger Station is usually open 9 a.m.-5 p.m. from mid-May to mid-September. Mineral King Ranger Station is usually open 7 a.m.-3:30 p.m. from late May to early October. If a ranger is not available at the time of pickup, please call (559)565-3341, press 0 and ask for dispatch.

The parks cannot be responsible for loss of valuables or rodent damage. Unclaimed packages cannot be returned.

For other locations, check with community postmasters for guidelines to mailing general delivery packages for pick-up by trail parties.



## ➤ Fishing Regulations

A California State Fishing License is required for everyone aged 16 or older. Licenses are usually available at concession markets in the parks, but it is wise to obtain one and a copy of the state fishing regulations ahead of time.

Some park regulations vary from the state's; ask for a copy of the park regulations when you pick up your permit.

# ➤ Traveling With Stock

"Stock use" refers to traveling with horses, mules, burros, or llamas and grazing in designated forage areas (which are subject to further specific restrictions). Dogs, sheep, goats, and all other domestic animals are prohibited.

### Before your trip

Visit our website or get a copy of area-specific regulations by calling the Wilderness Office, (559) 565-3766. Areas "closed to grazing" are open to travel and camping with stock if they remain confined and are given substitute feeds. Areas "closed to stock" are closed to all stock access.

Call the Wilderness Office for opening dates of forage areas, especially for trips prior to July 15. These dates are set to reduce grazing impacts in wet meadows early in the season. Opening dates are site specific and vary according to moisture levels, ensuring that grazing does not occur until meadows are fairly dry and the vegetation has developed enough to resist stock impacts. In general, the following guideline is used:

If planning to visit a heavily used area, it is wise to reserve a wilderness permit at least 21 days prior to your trip. Plan for the minimum number of stock to make your trip successful. Use lightweight equipment and carry only what you will really need.

### On the trail

Travel in small groups. The maximum number of stock allowed per party is 20. Some areas are closed to stock or have lower limits; please call to check regulations for the area you are visiting.

Stock are restricted to maintained trails in most areas. You may travel up to 1/2 mile from trails open to stock in order to reach a campsite. Off-trail stock use and travel on unmaintained trails is permitted in some areas. Loose herding is prohibited except as needed for safety or gathering stock.

Shortcutting trails and switchbacks is prohibited. Please minimize damage by riding in the center of the trail; damage caused by riding on trail shoulders is difficult and expensive to repair. Ride over — not around — water bars, causeways, riprap, or mud. Move obstacles; don't skirt them. Notify a ranger if a detour is necessary so the obstacle can be cleared before a new trail develops.

Stock in areas prior to opening dates, in areas closed to grazing, or in areas open only for day rides and pass-through travel must remain tied. Use a hitch line, as described below. You must pack in any feed to be used in these areas.

### Around camp

Talk to the local backcountry ranger whenever possible to select appropriate areas to camp with stock.

Avoid places that have already been heavily grazed. Be certain that local forage will support the needs of your stock. Overgrazing weakens grasses, provides opportunities for unwanted weeds to grow, and detracts from the beauty of the meadows.

Don't stay long in one place. Prolonged stock grazing in one area can damage vegetation and leaves less for the next party. Minimize confinement of stock. Restrained animals can do considerable damage by trampling vegetation, pawing tree roots, and debarking trees. Tie to a tree for no longer than it takes to pack or unpack animals. Where confinement is necessary, use existing hitch rails. Otherwise, always use a hitch line between two trees or rocks on hard, bare ground, 100'



away from water, campsites, and trails. Carry a rake to renovate pawed-up areas and scatter all manure piles before leaving; it speeds up decay and reduces odor and visual impact. Remove all manure at least 100' from the campsite.

Food must be kept in food storage boxes, bear-resistant panniers or canisters, or hung in a tree by the counterbalance method (*see page 7*). Human presence in the immediate area of the food at all times is the only other acceptable alternative.

### After your trip

The park's Stock Use and Meadow Monitoring Program depends on accurate data. All stock parties are required to report the location of each overnight camp (forage area) after their trips. Private parties are requested to return the Stock Use Monitoring Cards (obtained with your wilderness permit) to the nearest ranger station, or mail it to the Wilderness Office, Sequoia & Kings Canyon National Parks, Three Rivers, CA 93271

## ➤ In-Park Pack Stations

### ■ SEQUOIA NATIONAL PARK

MINERAL KING PACK STATION

(559) 561-3039

### ■ KINGS CANYON NATIONAL PARK

CEDAR GROVE PACK STATION

(559) 565-3464

### ■ GRANT GROVE STABLES

(Day Rides)

(559) 335-9292

## ➤ Those Who Came Before

Obsidian chips and pictographs. Crude shelters and ranger cabins. Mine shafts and a shepherd's grave.

If you encounter such ruins or relics, please do not

disturb them. Preserving these resources allows others to study and enjoy them.

Prehistoric use here has not yet been well researched. Disturbing an early campsite or removing an arrowhead destroys the opportunity for archaeologists to study the site intact. If you find evidence of prehistoric use, report it to a ranger.

You may also encounter historic structures such as the Mt. Whitney Hut built in 1909 for meteorological observations, or the beehive-shaped Muir Hut on Muir Pass which dates from 1930. Unfortunately, vandalism, trash, and human waste have compromised their integrity. Please respect their historic value and use them only if an emergency arises.

Never use the Mt. Whitney hut for shelter during thunderstorms (*see Lightning page 1*).

Our human history in these mountains is still being deciphered. With your help, this story will not be lost.

